

DIVISION: FORMS 1 - 4AGE GROUP: 12 plusSERIES: CURRENT AFFAIRSPROGRAMME (10) "General Elections"RECORDINGTRANSMISSION: Wednesday, December 2, 1964

NARR: Hello boys and girls,

Next Monday is a very important day for the whole of Guiana. Some people would say it's a historic day. You know what that means, don't you? It means a day on which people in Guiana will do something so important that it will be remembered for many years to come. Well I'm sure you know what will happen on Monday. On Monday the people of Guiana will vote to elect a new Government.

This week as you know there's great excitement in the towns and in the country districts. People are attending meetings in buildings to hear the speeches of the different speakers. But far more people are attending meetings at street corners in Georgetown and New Amsterdam and in open spaces in the villages, or even along the public roads in the country. Sometimes at these meetings there's a very large crowd. Sometimes the crowd is not so large. But every where there is interest in what the speakers have to say and also in how they say it.

Let's take a look at what a meeting is like. If you visit a place where a meeting is going to be held at night, during the day you'll find a sign saying "Such-and-Such a party meeting here tonight". Come one, come all, to hear our leader speak." During the day you may hear a voice coming over

/ a loud speaker.....

a loud speaker calling everyone to come to the meeting. The meeting may begin at about eight o'clock in the night. But by a quarter to eight the crowd begins to gather. Some people bring chairs, others bring benches. Sometimes a lorry full of people draws up. People call out to their friends and some begin to argue. You may be sure that some people have ^{come} to the meeting not to agree with the speaker but to disagree with him. They intend to heckle him. Do you know what heckling means? It means interrupting the speaker with taunts and trying to throw him off his balance.

Well at ten minutes to eight a light is put up on a pole so that everyone could see the speaker and someone is testing the loud speaker. He says "testing, testing, 1,2,3,.". A murmur comes from the audience. The people are impatient, they want the speeches to begin. Then a voice is heard. This is not the voice of the main speaker or the leader of the party but of someone who will prepare the audience, that is, get them in a good mood to listen to the speeches. Then the main speaker or the leader will come on and so the meeting begins. "Ladies and Gentlemen, our party is here tonight to tell you of the strides Guiana will make if we are returned ^{at} to the polls on Monday." (By this he means if they win the elections). There is applause from some people in the crowd there is a faint boo from others. The speaker goes on to tell the crowd what the leader will do if he is elected. He tells them of the special talents of the leader to govern the country then his voice begins to rise. He is trying to move the crowd into giving a rousing welcome to the chief speaker. He ends with the words - And so ladies and gentlemen

/I give you.....

I give you the only man who can lead Guiana to prosperity and wealth, the only man who deserves to be your leader, the man for whom you will cast your vote next Monday.' There is another round of applause, many people in the crowd have been waiting to hear this speaker. And as he comes forward the crowd cheers again, but of course there are also a few boos. At last the leader begins to speak, sometimes his voice is calm, he is reasoning with the audience, and ^{is} he/giving them facts and figures. All is quiet except for the sound of his voice. Then he gives a joke most likely at the expense of another leader or another party and the crowd laughs heartily. They have been concentrating hard on the facts and figures, now they relax a little with a good laugh. But soon the leader's voice begins to rise - he is telling the crowd how serious an election really is, that they must vote on Monday, and that they must vote for him. But then someone in the audience shouts "Why must we vote for you? You can't do anything for us." The speaker stops, he smiles, his voice shows no anger, he just says "My friend if you just relax and listen you will hear what I will do". And he names all the things he plans to do for the country. The heckler remains quiet for a while but is prepared to shout something else later on. Sometimes hecklers can be very clever and throw speakers off their balance. For instance, suppose a speaker in a summing up says "What we need is education reform, housing reform, land feorm, tax reform, road reform....." And someone shouts "Chloroform". Everybody laughs at the speaker and he can no longer get them to listen to him.

/You see boys and girls.....

You see boys and girls the speak at a political meeting and win over the others one needs a lot of courage, cleverness and quick thinking. A speaker has to hold his crowd gripped - even if the people don't agree with him. And it calls for a lot of energy to travel up and down the country night after night doing this. But to win an election parties have no choice. And this week they must finish their election campaigning, they have up to Sunday night. For on Monday all through the day people will be going to the polling stations placing their X's against the symbol of the party of their choice. Maybe what they hear at the meetings will influence how they will vote. And may the best party win.

OPR:

PLAY THEME: